

**Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative**  
**Saginaw Bay Phosphorus Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**March 7, 2008**  
**Meeting Summary**

On March 7, 2008, Saginaw Bay Coastal Initiative Phosphorus Advisory Committee held their first meeting. The group was welcomed by Jim Bredin (for DEQ Director Steven Chester) and Gordon Wenk (for MDA Director Don Koivisto).

Committee Co-chairs Kim Coonan and Ernie Krygier started the meeting indicating the importance of the committee efforts.

Joe Rathbun, MDEQ-Water Bureau, Nonpoint Source Unit provided a presentation on the findings and recommendations of the Statewide Phosphorus Policy Advisory Committee report dated March 15, 2007.

Michael Young, MDEQ-Environmental Science and Services Division provided an overview of the draft Charge to the Committee.

Charles Bauer, MDEQ-Water Bureau, Saginaw Bay District Office, discussed potential topics for future meetings.

Bay County indicated that it has and will continue to contact other counties regarding phosphorus turf bans. The committee also discussed the need for funding for posters to help educate the public.

The committee members agreed that the future meeting dates for the committee would be the second Friday of each month, except for April. The following meetings were scheduled:

- April 11<sup>th</sup>
- April 25<sup>th</sup>
- May 9<sup>th</sup>
- June 13<sup>th</sup>

The committee discussed possible meeting locations including the following:

- Caro Tech Center
- Saginaw MSU Extension
- Bay County's Wirt Library
- Saginaw Bay Yacht Club
- Saginaw Valley State University

DEQ staff will work with the co-chairs to identify future meeting locations.

The committee member's discussion focused on two key issues:

- What steps can be taken without legislation?
- What solutions require legislation?

The committee discussed potential future meeting discussion topics. The group agreed to divide future meetings into an informational component and an action component, giving equal time to both. The committee members agreed to the following basic agendas for the next meetings; assuming availability of presenters:

#### **April 11<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting**

- Educational efforts in Southeast Michigan and Bay County phosphorus ban initiative
- Presentation and discussion of the Statewide Phosphorus Policy Advisory Committee Findings and Recommendations
- Presentation Phosphorus sources and impacts on Saginaw Bay
- Discussion of what we know about phosphorus loadings to Saginaw Bay
- Discussion of options for development of a phosphorus pollution map(s)
- Presentation of the NOAA Adaptive Integrated Framework: a new methodology for managing impacts of multiple stressors in coastal ecosystems project
- Turf Grass Presentation

#### **April 25<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting**

- Permits for municipal and industrial discharges
  - Michigan Sugar
  - Bay City WWTP
  - MDA or CNMP or CAFO
- Short watershed management plans presentation

#### **May 9<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting**

- TMDL development for Saginaw Bay

Additional issues discussed by the committee members included:

- Establishing short and long -term goals for the committee
- Taking action at the State level. Pulling groups together from the top down. Example statewide phosphorus ban
- Education at the local level. Take action at the local level. Pull groups together from the bottom up. Example Bay County phosphorus ban
- Make phosphorus sampling kits available – MSU Extension